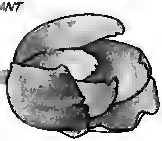
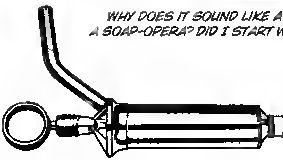
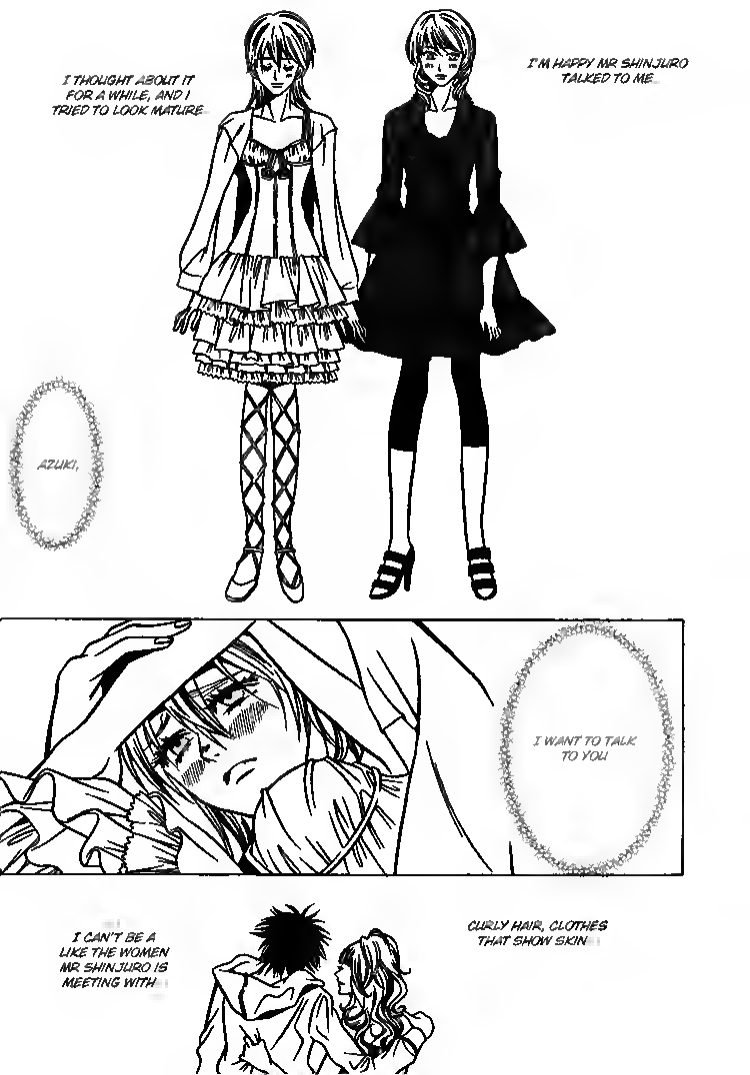
EMBALMING 3.1

"WHAT IS MORE IMPORTANT ME OR YOUR JOB?"



WHY DOES IT SOUND LIKE A LINE FROM A SOAP-OPERA? DID I START WANTING THAT?




I THOUGHT ABOUT IT FOR A WHILE, AND I TRIED TO LOOK MATURE
I'M HAPPY MR SHINJURO TALKED TO ME
AZUKI,
I WANT TO TALK TO YOU
I CAN'T BE A LIKE THE WOMEN MR SHINJURO IS MEETING WITH
CURLY HAIR, CLOTHES THAT SHOW SKIN

IT'S BETTER THAN
"WHAT DOES IT MATTER... I LIKE BOTH THE CAKES ANYWAY"
BEEP BEEP
"I'M FREE ON SUNDAY. AND YOU, MR. WAONAO?"
BEEP
I CAN'T COMPARE TO THE JOB, BUT THAT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO MR. SHINJURO.

"IS IT ABOUT THE OL* MURDERED BESTIALLY IN THE MINATO DISTRICT?"
*OFFICE LADY
I REMEMBER READING ABOUT IT IN A NEWSPAPER
IT'S THIS KIND OF AN ASSIGNMENT
YES I WANT YOU TO CARRY OUT AN EMBALMING ON THE VICTIM
THE BODY'S SEVERED INTO ELEVEN PARTS THE HEAD HAS BEEN CUT OFF
THE LEFT HAND HASN'T BEEN FOUND
!

PLEASE GIVE ME SOME TIME.
I'LL SEE WHAT CAN BE DONE.
IS IT POSSIBLE TO RECONSTRUCT A BODY IN THIS STATE? FRANKLY SPEAKING, MANY PEOPLE DOUBT
...
I THINK IT'S POSSIBLE BECAUSE THE BODY HASN'T STARTED TO DECA-

SWISH
NOT GOOD.
DOK DOK DOK
MOM
MR. IWAGURO I WANT YOU TO TAKE A LOOK AT THAT TOO
SHIKATO, I DON'T HAVE TO

rub
MR WAO, I'M COMING IN.
Creak
?
MR WAO?
scratch
WHEN I SAW THE VICTIM WHO WAS IN SUCH A HORRIBLE STATE EARLIER
scratch
IT'S NOTHING. HA, HA, HA.

...!
I'M SURE THE VICTIM HAD LOST HER HAND
I RECONSTRUCTED IT USING WAX
IT'S INCREDIBLE
CAN SOMETHING LIKE THIS BE DONE?
WE HAVE EXCEEDED OUR BUDGET FOR SURE

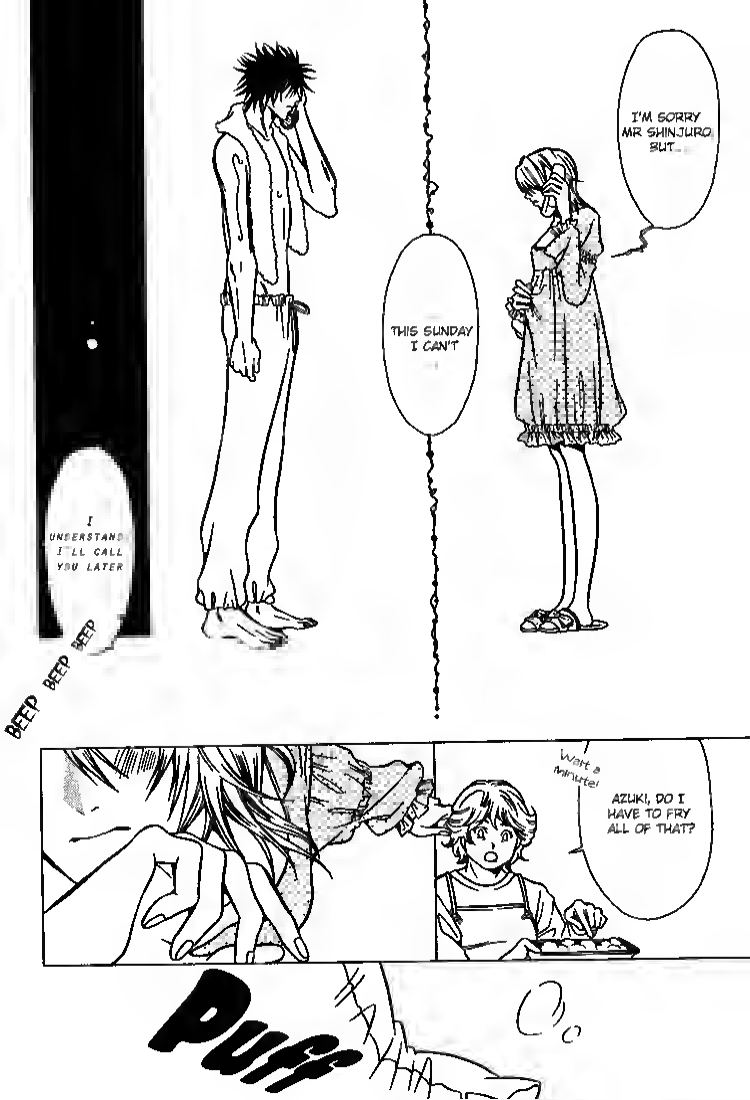
I'M PROUD THAT I DO THIS KIND OF JOB BUT WHEN ONE THINKS ABOUT THE FEELING OF THE DEAD PERSON'S FAMILY, THEY DON'T ALWAYS WANT TO DO THAT
MR MAMIYA, OUR JOB IS TO DISCOVER THE CAUSE IF DEATH
THAT'S WHY WE CUT THE ALREADY DAMAGED BODIES TO EXAMINE THEM
DO YOU WANT TO KILL HER FOR THE SECOND TIME?
WE DON'T HAVE TO KNOW WHAT CAUSED THE DEATH PLEASE DON'T MUTILATE THE BODY ANYMORE
WILL THE AUTOPSY BRING HER BACK TO LIFE?
HAVING BOTH HANDS SHE'LL BE ABLE TO PLAY THE PIANO.
HER FAMILY WILL PROBABLY BE PLEASED
THE DEAD USED TO PLAY THE PIANO.

THANKS TO EMBALMING, WE CAN DO OUR JOB PEACEFULLY
THANK YOU
MAMIYA, YOU CAN CALL ME WAO
DR WAO
AH,
I WON'T TROUBLE YOU ANYMORE

THAT TIME IT WAS REALLY DIFFICULT TO REGISTER EMBALMING.
ISN'T HE THE ONE I SHOULD BE THANKING...
WASN'T IT MR WAO WHO HELPED?
RING RING
YES?

HA
MR MAMIYA...
AZUKI, IT'S FOR YOU...
WHO IS IT? I'M MAKING KARAAGEKO* AT THIS MOMENT.
* A SPECIAL COATING IN WHICH THE PIECES OF MEAT ARE ROLLED IN, THEN DEEP-FRIED
YES.
AZUKI...
I'M SORRY ABOUT THAT.

THIS SUNDAY
ARE YOU FREE?
SUNDAY
...
clack
CLICK
clink
...
clink
FSSH
...
...
...
FSSH
CLICK


I'M SORRY MR SHINJURO, BUT...
THIS SUNDAY I CAN'T
I UNDERSTAND. I'LL CALL YOU LATER
BEEP BEEP BEEP
Wait a minute!
AZUKI, DO I HAVE TO FRY ALL OF THAT?
PUFF

IF I WAS PLAYING A RPG GAME, I'D HAVE TO HIT LEFT.
I'M SORRY, MR SHINJURO.
I HAD MY HOPES UP, THEN WAS LET DOWN, AND NOW I'M SUPPOSED TO HAVE MY HOPES UP AGAIN...
EVEN IF HE MAKES A PROMISE ANOTHER TIME, IT STILL WON'T WORK OUT.
I'M SCARED.
IF I GET HIT AGAIN, I'LL COLLAPSE.
GAME OVER

A LONG FOREPLAY, AS USUAL ...
HA
HA
HA
AAH...
HA
HA
No....
IT'S STILL NOT ENOUGH
HA

COLD,
COLD
BOTH MY HANDS HURT BECAUSE OF THE COLD.
I TOUCHED A CORPSE FOR THE FIRST TIME WHEN I WAS 18
MOM...
AFTER AN EMBALMING, ANY PERSON IS ENOUGH
HARDER ...
PLEASE, HARDER ...

DO IT HARDER ...

TO RAISE THE BODY HEAT, WHOEVER IS GOOD...

AAH...

RIGHT NOW, I'M THE WORST GUY IN THE WHOLE WORLD.

...
SHE'LL COME OUT EVENTUALLY ...
Like a stalker.
I'M GOING OUT
pulls
gasp

!
MR SHINJURO ?!
WHY...
A...
BEE BEEP
No ...
I...
I WAS JUST PASSING BY AND... THE RENT FOR THIS MONTH...

AZUKI, I'M SORRY DID YOU WAIT LONG ?

VROOM
SINCE IT'S THE TREE OF US LET'S EAT HIROSHIMAYAKI, INSTEAD OF WAFERS,
WHAT A COINCIDENCE!
YEAH...
I didn't expect this. Why is Shinjuro on the back?
Is it normal that I joined in? On top of that I'm sitting on the backseat.
NOPE
MAMIYA, HAVE YOU EATEN YET ?
A HA HA I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THAT YOU KNOW EACH OTHER

WE'LL HAVE THREE OOLONG TEAS
I'LL HAVE HIROSHIMAYAKI WITH AN EGG, PORK AND SOBA*
I'LL HAVE HIROSHIMAYAKI WITH SHRIMPS, CHEESE AND SOBA.
FOR ME WITH SQUID, LEEK AND SOBA.
glance
glance

*THIN JAPANESE NOODLE MADE FROM BUCKWHEAT FLOUR

WHY IS IT LIKE THIS
SIZZLE
SIZZLE

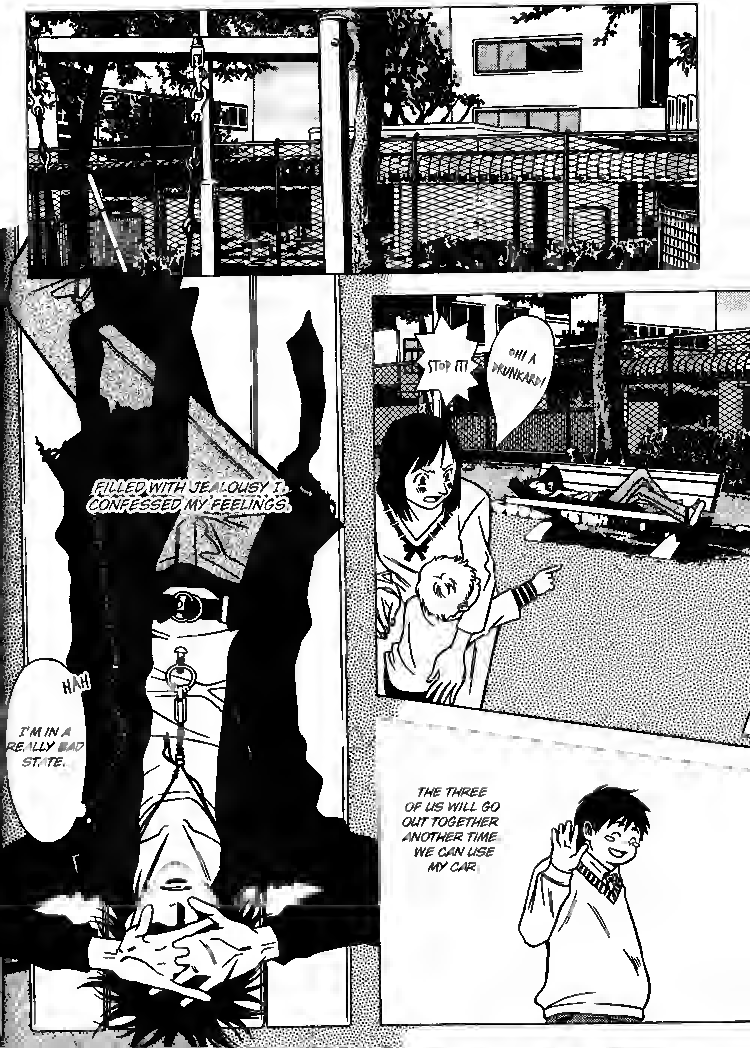
THE ONE WITH SHRIMPS IS READY
JUST AT FIRST
Azuki,?
YOU CARRY OUT EMBALMINGS IN A CHURCH THAT BELONGS TO AZUKI?
ADJUSTING IT WAS PROBABLY DIFFICULT
perhaps you wasn't able to place the necessary equipment properly
I'M GOING TO THE TOILET START WITHOUT ME
SILENCE

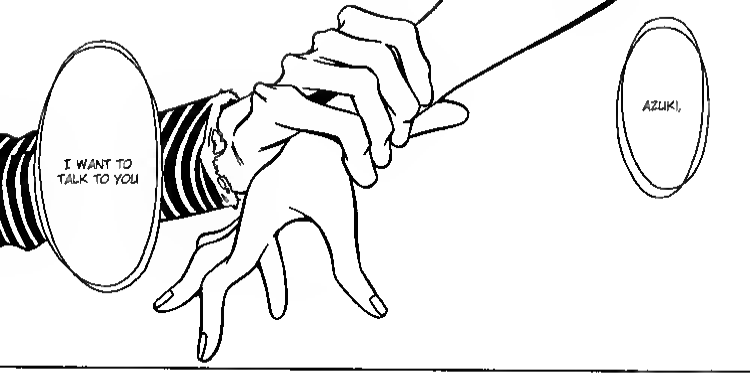
SHINJURO
AZUKI
DRINK MENU
ソフトドリンク
HE'S MY BROTHER'S UNIVERSITY FRIEND.
WHAT ABOUT YOU?
scratch
WHAT'S BETWEEN YOU AND MR WAO?
A FORENSIC MEDICINE SPECIALIST AND
E?

IT'S NOT LIKE THAT. I...
BECAUSE THE MURDER RATIO IN THE DISTRICT DRASTICALLY WENT UP, THE POLICE ORDERED TO SUBJECT THE VICTIMS TO EMBALMINGS
I DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT SUCH "PRETTY" THINGS.
YEAH..
MR WAO REALLY UNDERSTANDS THE IMPORTANCE OF EMBALMING
DISCOVERING THE CAUSE OF DEATH IS AN IMPORTANT JOB
WHY NOT ME?
WHY DID SHE AGREE TO MEET WITH HIM AND NOT ME?
MR SHINJURO?

NO...
I'M SORRY, BUT I'M NOT GONNA KEEP SILENT ANY LONGER
I'M IN LOVE WITH YOU!
MR SHINJURO
I'M BACK!

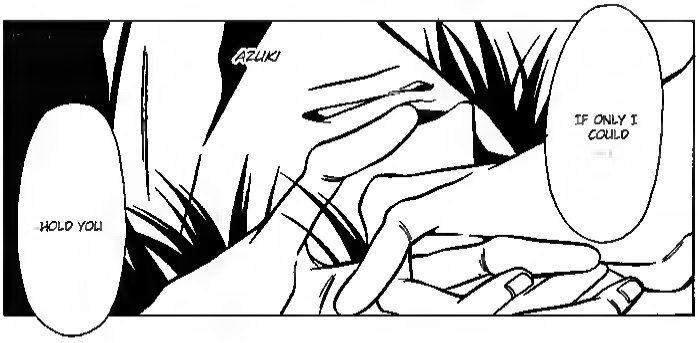
Heh
YOU STILL HAVEN'T POURED THE SAUCE OVER IT?
IT'S BURNT
SPLASH
YOU CAN'T USE TOO MUCH SAUCE...
* ALGAE WHICH ARE ADDED TO MANY KINDS OF DISHES
...
IF WE ADD AONORI* IT'LL BE DELICIOUS ALSO


FILLED WITH JEALOUSY I CONFESSED MY FEELINGS.
HAH
I'M IN A REALLY BAD STATE.
STOP IT!
OH! A DRUNKARD!
THE THREE OF US WILL GO OUT TOGETHER ANOTHER TIME. WE CAN USE MY CAR.



WHAT DO I WANT NOW?

DO I CALL HER INSTEAD OF OTHER GIRLS WHEN I'LL HAVE THE NEED TO RAISE MY BODY HEAT?



emoalming 31
Your body heat.
my body heat.
The end

EMBALMING 32

MIYAZAWA KENJI HAD SCURVY, AND TUBERCULOSIS. WHEN HE WAS LYING IN HIS BED, HE WAS AS TRANSPARENT AS THE WIND AND AS BLUE AS THE SKY.
OH! MAMIYA FROM THE MEDICAL DEPARTMENT
HE ATTRACTS WOMEN EASILY
HIS FATHER IS AN EMBA-WHATEVER
DOES IT HAVE TO DO WITH CORPSES?
I DON'T KNOW

RENJI...
... IT'S HIGH TIME YOU THOUGHT ABOUT TAKING OVER OUR FAMILY BUSINESS.
MONEY? DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS JUST GRADUATE FROM UNIVERSITY.
WE WANT YOU TO DO WHATEVER YOU WANT TO
HIS FATHER IS AN EMBALMER?
HE'S ONE OF THOSE WHO'LL NEVER CHANGE

WELL...
ACH
APPEND
!!

...
yawn
WHY IS HE FOLLOWING ME?
DO WE HAPPEN TO BE HEADED TO THE SAME PLACE?
NEXT FORENSIC MEDICINE LECTURES WILL TAKE PLACE IN ANOTHER CLASSROOM.
THANKS ...
SCRATCH SCRATCH
BY SAYING "FORENSIC MEDICINE" I MEANT WORKING ON WASHING THE CORPSES
WE SINK THE BODIES IN FORMALDEHYDE SOLUTION USING A STICK
IT ISN'T DONE LIKE THIS WHEN THE FORMALDEHYDE SOLUTION GETS INTO THE LUNGS, THE AIR GETS OUT AND THE BODY DROWNS
DID YOU PAY ATTENTION DURING THE LECTURE?
...
GRK
THE BATH SHOULD BE REPEATED
SOMETIMES YOU HAVE TO TAKE THE CORPSE OUT
AND THEN WOMEN'S HAIRS TWINE AROUND THE STICK

THIS WAY THE CORPSES GET SPONGY
UHHHHH
DO YOU VOMIT OFTEN? YOU'RE A STUDENT OF MEDICINE.
AS THE SON OF THE OWNER OF A FUNERAL HOME YOU SHOULD BE ACCUSTOMED TO IT.
!
Shaaa
HOW DO YOU KNOW?
SWISH
I WANTED TO TALK TO YOU SINCE EVER.

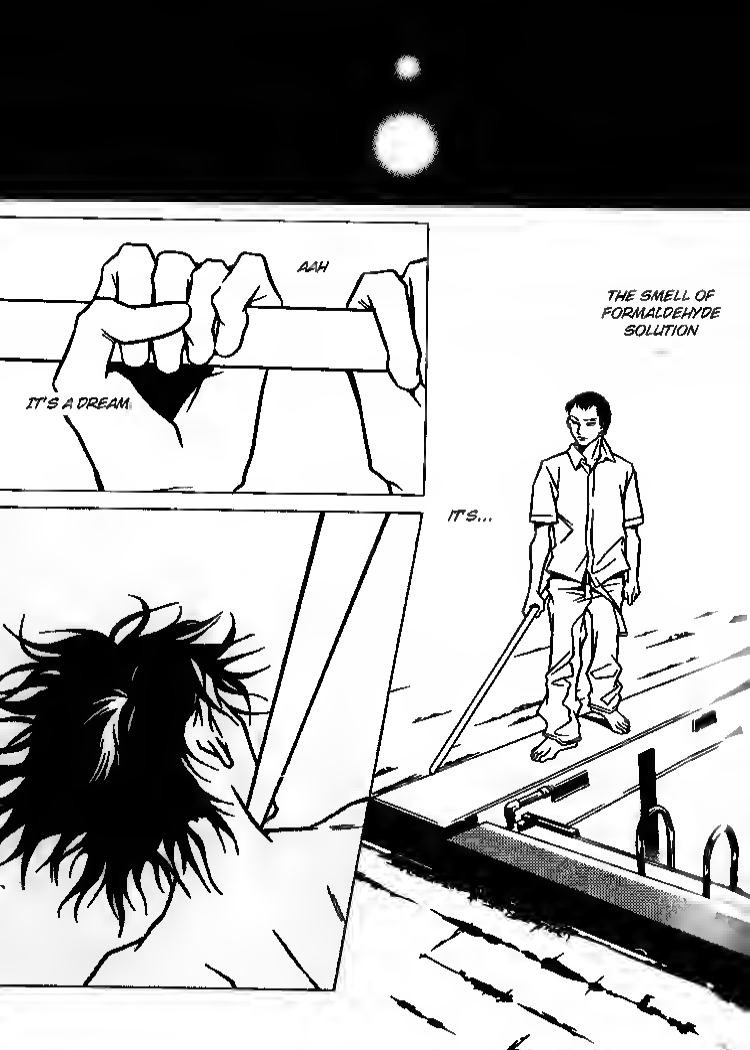
I THOUGHT IT'S A GUY WHO'LL NEVER CHANGE...
I'M JUST LIKE YOU.
...AND IT WAS THE FIRST SURPRISE.
"CAN WE MEET YOU ON NEW YEAR'S?"
"WHY DID YOU CHOOSE TO DO SOMETHING SO UNPLEASANT?"
"I'M SORRY, BUT YOU BRING SHAME UPON YOUR FAMILY."
"NOBODY RESPECTS PEOPLE FROM FUNERAL HOUSES."

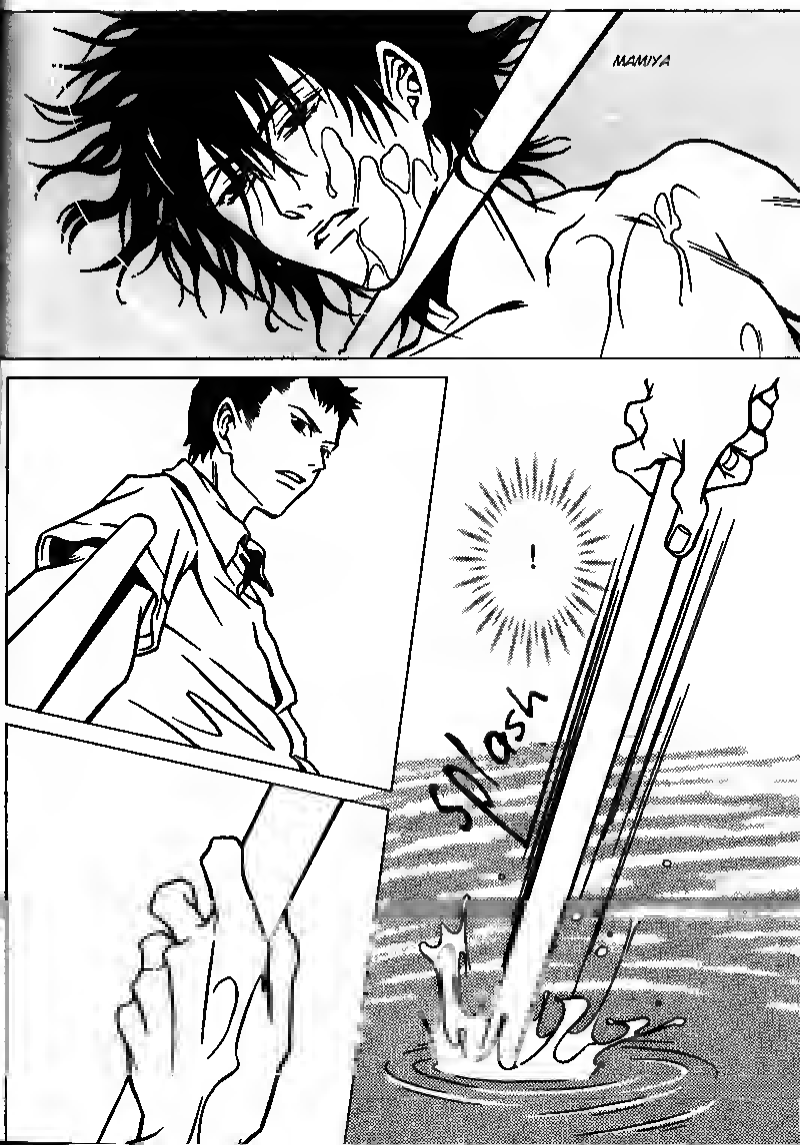
I DON'T LIKE GRANDPARENTS
IT'S OKAY
THERE'LL BE A TIME WHEN EVERYBODY WILL UNDERSTAND THAT
HEY!
YOU SMELL OF INCENSE
IT DOESN'T BOTHER ME, BUT IF IT DOES BOTHER YOU,
THEN GET LOST
DON'T STARE AT ME LIKE THAT

HEY! ISN'T CLINICAL MEDICINE YOUR DREAM?
I...
WHY? DIDN'T YOU COME HERE BECAUSE YOU ALSO HATE THE FAMILY BUSINESS?
"ALSO". HE SAID "ALSO".
I HAVEN'T TOLD THAT TO MY PARENTS YET.
AFTER GRADUATING I'LL TAKE OVER THE FUNERAL HOUSE.
!?
DID SOME ACCIDENT HAPPEN TO YOU— WHY BY CHOICE
DO YOU THINK YOU'LL SEE SOMETHING IN THE EYES OF THE DYING PEOPLE?
HUH?

ONCE MY FATHER BROUGHT ME TO MY DYING GRANDFATHER WHOM I HATED I WAS THE WITNESS OF HIS DEATH
I THOUGHT THAT I DON'T WANT TO SEE SOMETHING LIKE THAT AGAIN
A VISIT FROM A WORKER OF A FUNERAL HOUSE BRINGS MISFORTUNE
NO...
IN A HOARSE VOICE HE SAID: "THANK YOU".
MAYBE YOU HATED YOUR FATHER BECAUSE HE MADE YOU LOOK AT THAT,
BUT HE PREPARED YOU FOR THAT POSSIBILITY
HE HAD A CALM, GENTLE FACE
GRANDFATHER PROBABLY ALSO TURNED HIS EYES TOWARDS HEAVEN.

I'M GRATEFUL TO MY FATHER FOR LETTING ME CHOOSE
YEAH
WHEN I STARTED STUDYING MEDICINE I MADE A DECISION
BUT I DON'T INTEND ON RESCUING THE DEAD LIKE MY FATHER.
I WILL MAKE PEOPLE LIVE.
GO TO HELL! I'VE HAD ENOUGH!
MOMIY...
IF HE HAD BEEN A DOCTOR HE'D PROBABLY HAVE HELPED MOTHER.
?


AAH
IT'S A DREAM
THE SMELL OF FORMALDEHYDE SOLUTION
IT'S...

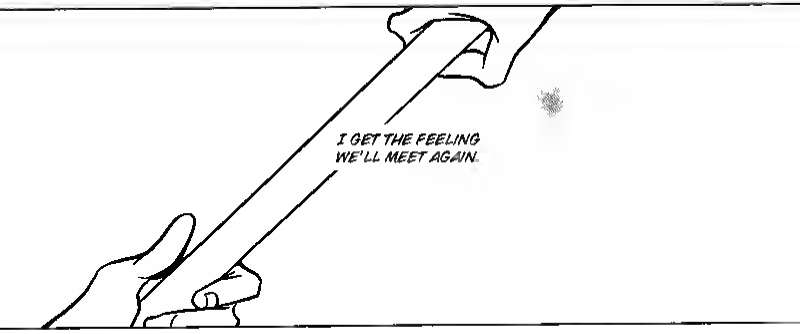

MAMIYA
!
Splash

RENJI LOOK!
STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN

SUDDENLY, AFTER THE SUMMER BREAK MAMIYA DISAPPEARED.

SUDDENLY I REMEMBERED THE SKY, WHICH I HAD SEEN COMING BACK FROM MY GRANDFATHER'S FUNERAL.

I GOT MORE CERTAIN...



emoalming 32

Stairway to heaven.

The end.

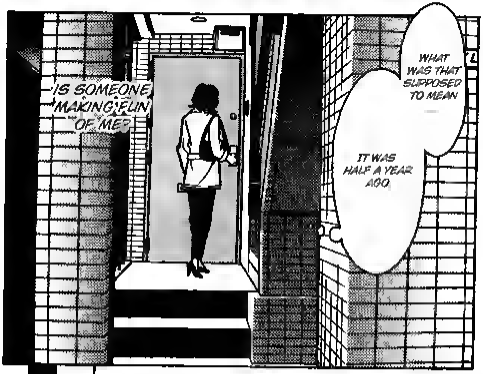
EMBALMING 33

I STILL SEE YOUR SMILING FACE.
ALTHOUGH I'M NOT REALLY GOOD AT THAT,
I'D LIKE TO EXPRESS MY FEELINGS.

GOOD MORNING, MR MURATA.
OH, GOOD MORNING AS USUAL EVERYTHING'S FINE
Morning!
LET'S SEE WHAT WE'VE GOT HERE XERO BILLS INVOICES
HM?
Arisa
Sorokanda
slash

A WARM FEELING OF UTTER HAPPINESS APPEARS. I WANT TO PROTECT THIS SMILING FACE BY ANY MEANS. I WOULDN'T EVEN DARE TO ASK FOR US TO MEET. HOWEVER, IF IT WAS BOUND TO HAPPEN, IT'S MY DREAM TO BE ABLE TO HOLD YOU BY THE HAND, SIT BESIDE YOU AND LOOK AT THIS SMILING FACE
SUDDEN WHEN I SEE YOUR SMILING FACE, MY MOOD GETS BETTER IN AN INSTANT,
"DEAR MISS YAMAMOTO ARISA! I'M SORRY IT'S SO
WHAT'S THIS?
A LOVE LETTER?
a letter nowadays
NO SENDER
hu hu hu
YOU'RE BLUSHING. COULD IT BE THE DEPARTMENT'S BOSS, YAEDA?
HI, ARISA!
WAH!

NO KIDDING IT'S NOT POSSIBLE



"...IT'S MY DREAM TO HOLD YOU BY THE HAND..."

DEAR LITTLE BIRD EVERY TIME I SEE YOU, YOU'RE SMILING BEAUTIFULLY
I KEEP LOOKING AT YOU
YOU'VE CAUGHT MY EYE AND PSYCHED ME OUT
Little Bird
I FEEL AWFUL, IS IT A STALKER?
EH— BOTH LETTERS HAVE DIFFERENT FEELINGS ABOUT THEM...

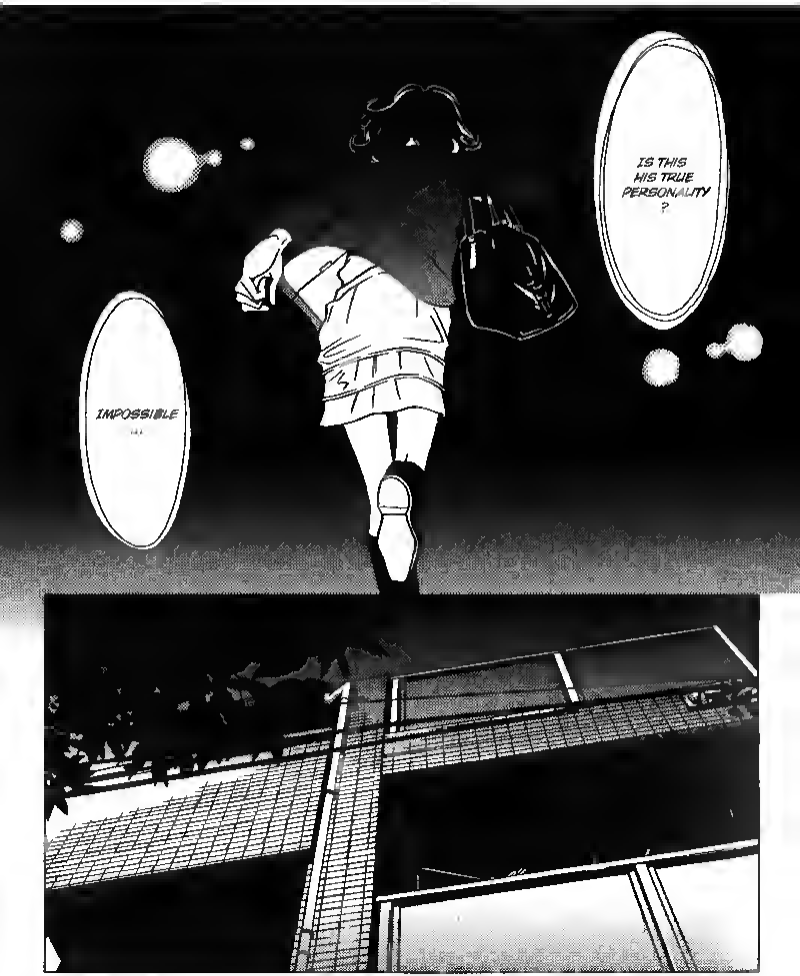
SLIDE
IMPOSSIBLE
HEH
WHAT'S UP? YOU DON'T LOOK GOOD
Where are we gonna eat lunch?
EHHH

RECENTLY SOMETHING WEIRD HAPPENED TO ME.
EVERYDAY I GET A LETTER SAYING "LITTLE BIRD, I'M WATCHING YOU ALL THE TIME..."
THAT'S SICK.
ARISA YOU SHOULD BE CAREFUL WHEN YOU'RE WALKING DOWN THAT DARK ALLEY TOWARDS THE STATION
YEAH.
I GET THE FEELING THAT I'M BEING WATCHED WHEN I'M GOING BACK HOME.

CALL ME IF ANYTHING HAPPENS.
YEAH, THANKS.

IS SOMEONE FOLLOWING ME?
VROOM

THE SECURITY GUARD- MR MURATA?!



SLIDE
LITTLE BIRD, YOU LOOKED PRETTY IN THE CLOTHES YOU WERE WEARING TODAY.
I'M GLAD WE MET.
BUT WASN'T THE SKIRT A LITTLE TOO SHORT?
I LOVE YOU, LITTLE BIRD
I'M ALWAYS WATCHING YOU.
MY LITTLE BIRD...

I DON'T WANT TO WALK BY THE CREEPY SECURITY ROOM
AH
GOOD MORNING
YE- YESTERDAY
...

EH REALLY? MAYBE YOU SHOULD GO TO THE POLICE STATION?
YEAH
AT FIRST, THE LETTERS DIDN'T SEEM THAT SCARY
IF HE FOLLOWS ME TODAY TOO, I'LL TELL HIM WHAT I THINK
EH... REALLY?
RELAX EVERYTHING'S GONNA BE FINE

IF SOMETHING HAPPENS I'LL BE ABLE TO ESCAPE FROM THE OLD MAN
tap
tap
step step
clack

I'M SURE...
HE PROBABLY THINKS I'M HELPLESS
!
HEY! MR. MURATA!
SWISH
WHAT IS IT ABOUT? PLEASE LEAVE ME ALONE!
IT'S NOT HIM...
A...
I'M SORRY, I...

MURATA? WHO'S THAT?
EH? I MISTOOK YOU FOR SOMEONE
ARE YOU CHEATING ON ME?
EH?
EVERYDAY I'M WALKING YOU HOME
WHAT?
YOU READ ALL OF THE LETTERS, DIDN'T YOU...
LITTLE BIRD
GRAB's
!
CLENCH

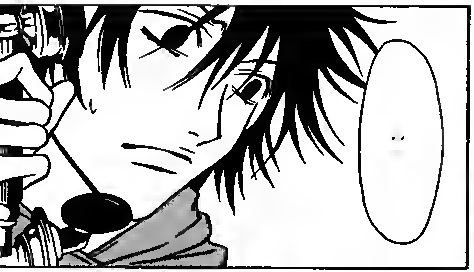
LET ME GO! HELP..
WAAAAAAH!
TRAMPLE
WHY ARE YOU SAYING THIS?
ALTHOUGH YOU WERE LOOKING AT ME LIKE THAT ALL THE TIME ...
I HATE YOU!
DON'T REFUSE
DON'T REFUSE ME!

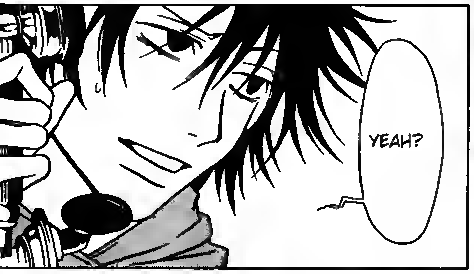
I... DIDN'T KNOW THE OLD GUY WILL BUTT IN!
WAAAH!
CLACK
I..
MR... MR MURATA, PLEASE HANG ON
HELLO? AN AMBULANCE, QUICK! WE'RE...

I'M SORRY
I WORRIED YOU
NO..
I'M SORRY I WAS FOLLOWING YOU
I STUPIDLY MISTOOK YOU FOR A STALKER.
No
I WROTE THAT LETTER TO YOU
YOU ...
REALLY... LOOK LIKE ... MY DECEASED...

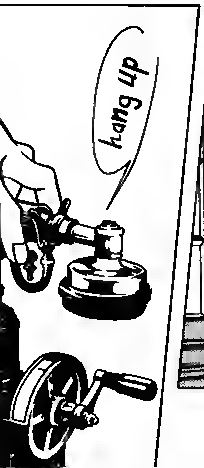
ambulance siren
MR MURATA!
!!
RING
RINNNNG
AZUKI...?
YES, IT'S MAMIYA ...

Hello, Mamiya. Last time ,it was a lot of fun It's me... Wao
cough
cuts
I think it can be reconstructed then, three o'clock
yes
I'm calling because of an embalming request from the police
It's a victim of a murder. The face and neck are wounded we'd like to give the corpse directly to the family
Mamiya, wait a minute
It's about Azuki.





IT PROBABLY MEANS, "GOODBYE".



A MIDDLE-AGED GUY, WHO CAN'T EVEN CATCH SOMEONE BY A HAND, FELL IN LOVE WITH A YOUNG GIRL.

I'M SORRY.
IT'S AWFUL, I CAN'T GO THERE.
MR MURATA'S FUNERAL...
SHOULD I SHOW UP THERE?
I SENT YOU A LETTER.
A LETTER

EVEN AT FIRST GLANCE, THE LETTERS AND THE HANDWRITING...
... LOOK DIFFERENT.
WHY DIDN'T I NOTICE IT EARLIER?
I'M ... SUCH AN IDIOT.
THAT'S THE FIRST AND LAST TRUE LOVE LETTER I'LL EVER RECEIVE.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN IT'S THE PARTING ...

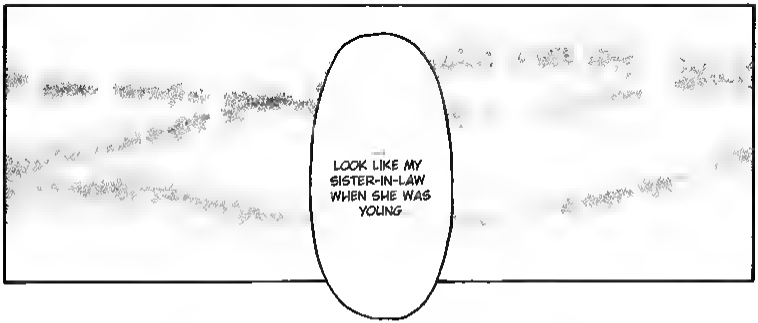
STOP!
...
MISS YAMAMOTO?
HA
HA
HA
MY ELDER BROTHER TALKED ABOUT YOU OFTEN.
NOW I UNDERSTAND WHY HE TRIED SO HARD

MY BROTHER'S HANDWRITING
PLEASE, LOOK...
I'M SORRY
I'M SORRY, REALLY SORRY
I...
MISS YAMAMOTO,
PLEASE LOOK AT MY ELDER BROTHER'S FACE...

!
...HAVE DISAPPEARED.
THE WOUNDS
IT'S CALLED "EMBALMING" YOU CAN TOUCH HIM.

HOWEVER,
IF IT WAS BOUND TO HAPPEN...

IT'S MY DREAM TO BE ABLE TO HOLD YOU BY THE HAND, SIT BESIDE YOU AND LOOK AT THIS SMILING FACE.
MY BROTHER'S FEELINGS FOR YOU WERE SINCERE
HE WAS A REALLY GOOD HUSBAND
YOU REALLY ...



embalming 33

Old love.

the end

EMBALMING 34

IS THE EMBALMING A SERVICE FOR THE DEAD
OR IS IT A SREVICE FOR THE RELATIVES?

I'M
I'M SORRY
I'LL CLEAN IT!
UWAH!
WAH!
WAH!
ARE YOU NEW HERE? IT'S OKAY. PLEASE DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
BUT THIS PICTURE... IT MUST BE IMPORTANT FOR YOU
OH, THIS?

IT'S MY DECEASED SISTER- AOIKO SHE WAS A GOOD KID
I'M SORRY I'LL PAY FOR
IT'S OKAY SHE HAS PLENTY OF THEM AT HOME
MIDORIKO, LOOK,THE MISS OVER HERE WENT PALE WITH FEAR
THE PHOTOS ARE THAT IMPORTANT FOR YOU THAT YOU HAVE THEM EVERYWHERE
AH, YES
EAC
THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING
HERE WE ARE
EAC
dish cafe
dessert
LUNCH TIME

SHE MUST BE NICE SINCE SHE'S MEETING WITH SUCH A GUY.
NO ONE CAN BE THIS PERFECT.
SHE COMES HERE OFTEN SHE'S A MODEL OR SOMETHING
SUCH A BEAUTY
SHE'S SO BEAUTIFUL, I'M ENVIOUS

YOU COULD'VE BOUGHT SOMETHING -ANCHOIS OR CRACKERS.
MIDORIKO
WE HAVE BEEN MEETING FOR MORE THAN A YEAR ALREADY.
ISN'T IT TIME YOU INTRODUCED ME TO YOUR PARENTS?
SATORI
YOU TOLD ME YOU LIKED MY PERSONALITY.

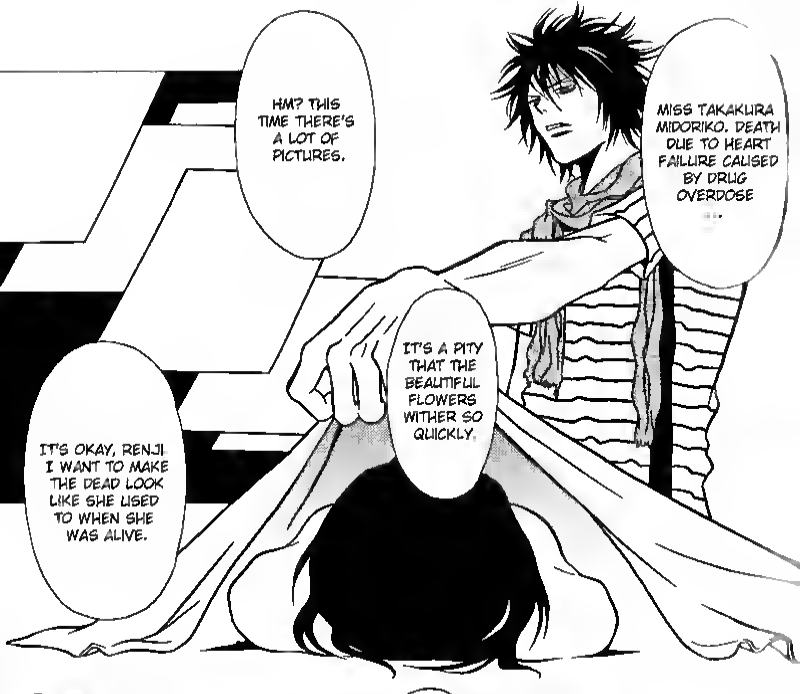
IF I
HAD THIS FACE WOULD YOU SAY THE SAME THING?
EH... NO...

BUT ISN'T IT YOUR SISTER?
I LOVE YOU.
I LIKE YOUR PERSONALITY
MIDORIKO,IT WAS LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT
GET OUT
?
HEY!
GET OUT!

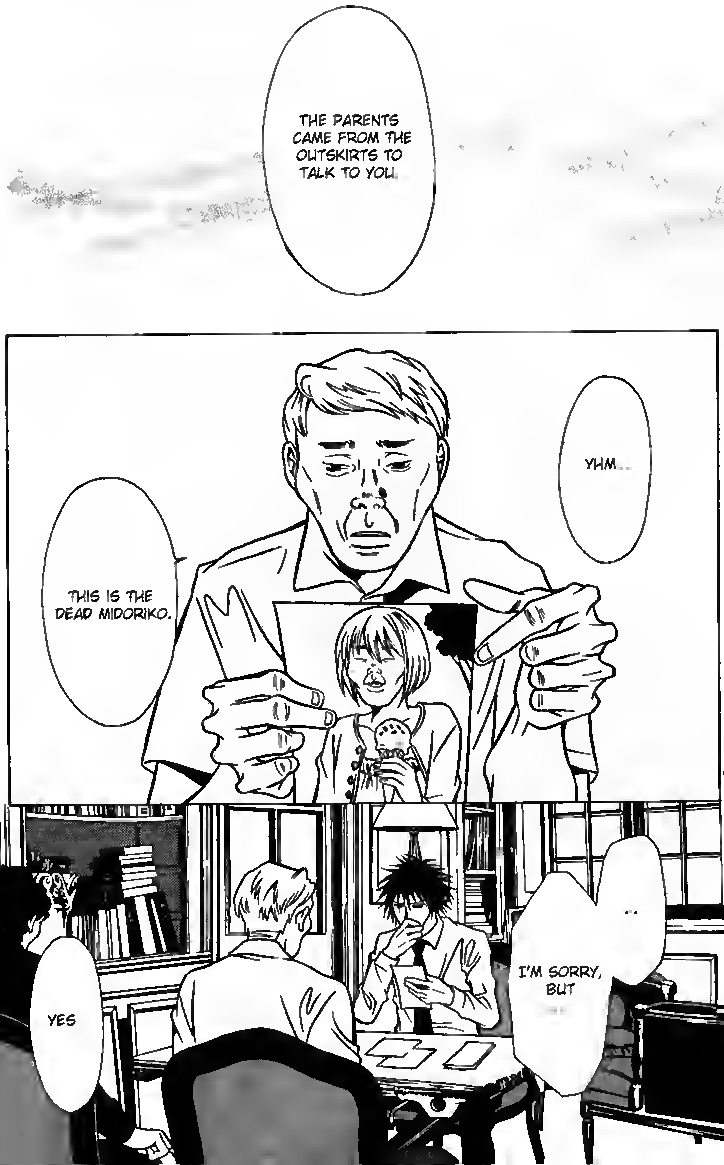
AOIKO,
IT'S JUST AS
I THOUGHT
-HE'S LIKE ANY
OTHER GUY.
NOBODY,
NOBODY...

LOOKS AT ME FOR WHO I REALLY AM.

IT'LL BE LIKE THAT WITH YOU TOO. THIS HOT, HALF-JAPANESE GUY ...
and?
SHE CAME HERE EVERY THIRD DAY...
Aaa...
MAYBE SHE GOT MARRIED AND MOVED AWAY
MAYBE
She changed into a robot
PUFF
IT WILL NOT BE LIKE THIS


HM? THIS TIME THERE'S A LOT OF PICTURES.
MISS TAKAKURA MIDORIKO. DEATH DUE TO HEART FAILLIRE CALISED BY DRUG OVERDOSE
IT'S A PITY THAT THE BEAUTIFUL FLOWERS WITHER SO QUICKLY.
IT'S OKAY, RENJI. I WANT TO MAKE THE DEAD LOOK LIKE SHE USED TO WHEN SHE WAS ALIVE.

MAMIYA, THIS TIME IT'S DIFFERENT.
IT'S A SPECIAL CASE.
?


THE PARENTS CAME FROM THE OUTSKIRTS TO TALK TO YOU.
YHM...
THIS IS THE DEAD MIDORIKO.
I'M SORRY, BUT
YES

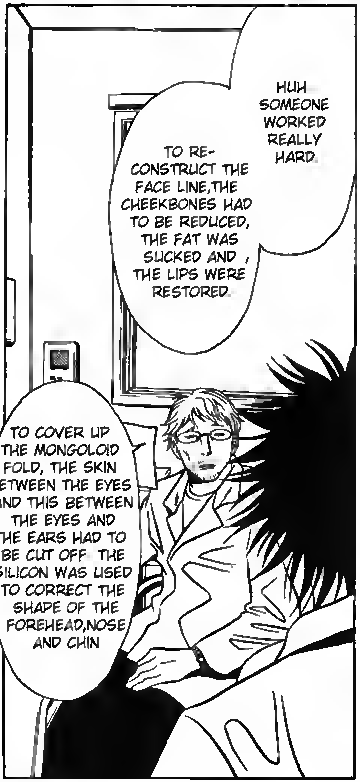
MIDORIKO WAS ASHAMED OF HER LOOKS, SO SHE UNDERWENT A PLASTIC SURGERY.
THAT PICTURE WAS TAKEN WITH HER ELDER SISTER, AOIKO...
AS HER FATHER I MAY NOT BE OBJECTIVE, BUT SHE WAS THE MOST BEAUTIFUL GIRL IN OUR TOWN.
THAT'S WHY WE DECIDED TO BRING THEM UP SEPARATELY.
MIDORIKO HAD ALWAYS BEEN COMPARED TO HER ELDER SISTER.
SHE HAD MANY BAD MEMORIES.

AT THE AGE OF TWENTY, AOIKO DROWNED HERSELF
SHE MOVED TO TOKYO. UNDERWENT MANY PLASTIC SURGERIES...
GRADUALLY SHE DEVELOPED MENTAL PROBLEMS
SINCE THAT TIME MIDORIKO GOT STRANGE
ALL AOIKO NEEDED WAS LOVE
TAP
SHE WAS STUPID...
WE WOULDN'T TRADE OUR BELOVED CHILD FOR ANYTHING
REALLY

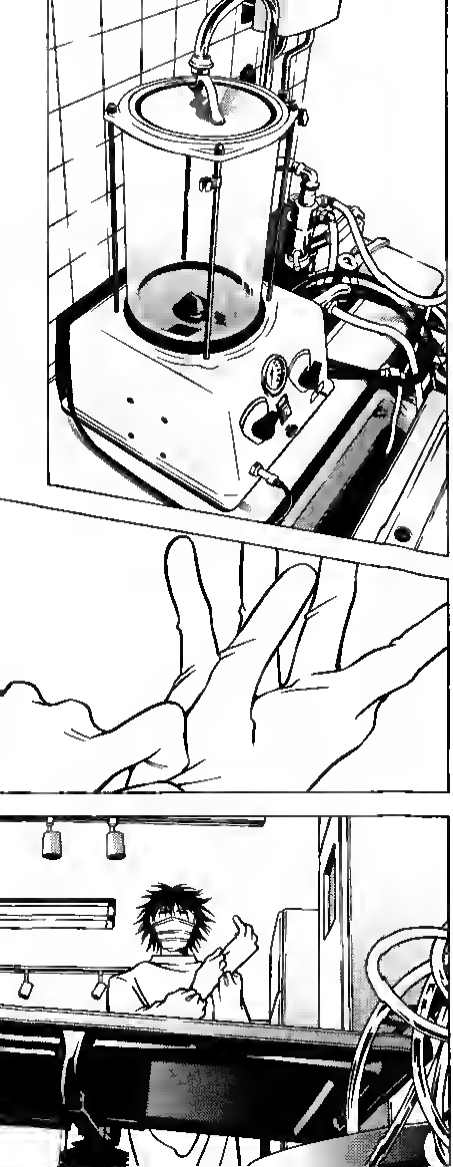
PLEASE, BRING BACK OUR DAUGHTER'S TRUE FACE
PLEASE, MR MAMIYA.
I'M SORRY
EMBALMING ISN'T AN UNIVERSAL METHOD, IT DIFFERS FROM PLASTIC SURGERIES. THERE ARE THINGS THAT CANNOT BE DONE
WE BEG YOU
PLEASE
WE DON'T WANT TO SAY GOODBYE TO MIDORIKO WHO LOOKS LIKE AOIKO...
MR MAMIYA...

AT LEAST MAKE OUR DAUGHTER LESS PRETTY!
I UNDERSTAND. I'LL TRY TO DO EVERYTHING TO MAKE HER LOOK LIKE SHE USED TO.

AN OPERATION LIKE THAT MUST'VE COST A FORTUNE. IT'S NOT REFUNDED.


HUH. SOMEONE WORKED REALLY HARD.
TO RE-CONSTRUCT THE FACE LINE, THE CHEEKBONES HAD TO BE REDUCED, THE FAT WAS SUCKED AND , THE LIPS WERE RESTORED.
TO COVER UP THE MONGOLOID FOLD, THE SKIN BETWEEN THE EYES AND THIS BETWEEN THE EYES AND THE EARS HAD TO BE CUT OFF. THE SILICON WAS USED TO CORRECT THE SHAPE OF THE FOREHEAD, NOSE AND CHIN

WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO, MAMIYA?


I'LL TRY TO DO EVERYTHING IN MY POWER

I'LL MAKE SMALL HOLES IN THE LIPS AND THE NOSE TO TAKE OUT THE SILICONE.
I'LL RECONSTRUCT THE SHAPE OF THE FACE USING COMPOSITE CEMENT
THE SKIN BETWEEN THE EYES AND THIS BETWEEN THE EYES AND EARS WILL BE REPLACED WITH WAX.
I'LL REMOVE THE FAKE LASHES USING OIL. THIS WAY THE BROWS WILL ALSO HAVE A NATURAL LOOK.

MISS MIDORIKO ...
... THIS FACE MUST'VE COST YOU A FORTUNE.
RETURNING TO YOUR OLD LOOKS WILL YOU BE HAPPY?

MRS AND MR TAKAKURA ASKED ME TO THANK YOU.
OH, YES.
ANY OBJECTIONS ?
DO YOU THINK THAT THE DEAD WOULD ASK FOR THIS KIND OF EMBALMING?

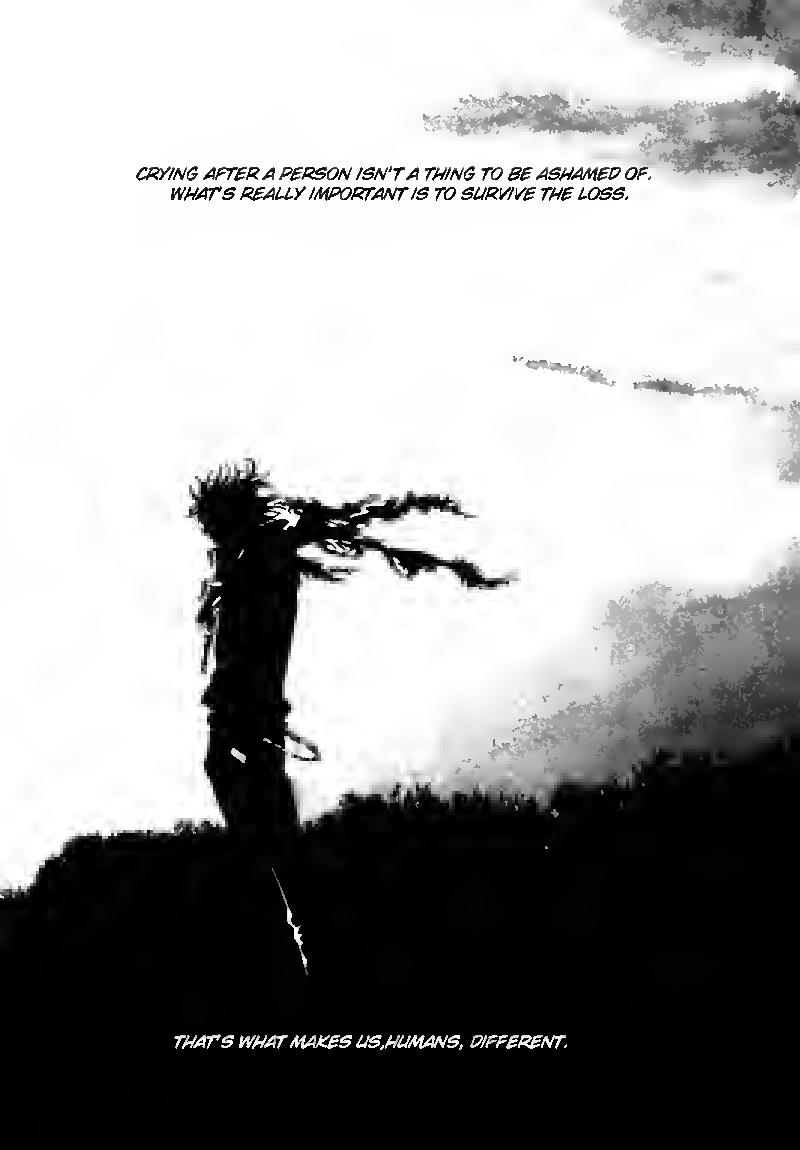
WOULDN'T SHE WANT TO LOOK PRETTY?
MAMIYA..
MAYBE THE FAMILY WANTED TO SAY GOODBYE TO THEIR REAL DAUGHTER.

IS IT THE SELFISHNESS OF THOSE WHO ARE LEFT BEHIND?
BESIDES, I DON'T KNOW WHAT SHE WANTED. SHE COULD SEE HER REAL FACE.
HER REAL FACE THAT WON'T BE COMPARED TO ANYONE.
A DILEMMA?

AH...
OH YES.
Orient

embalming 34

The price of the appearance.
the end

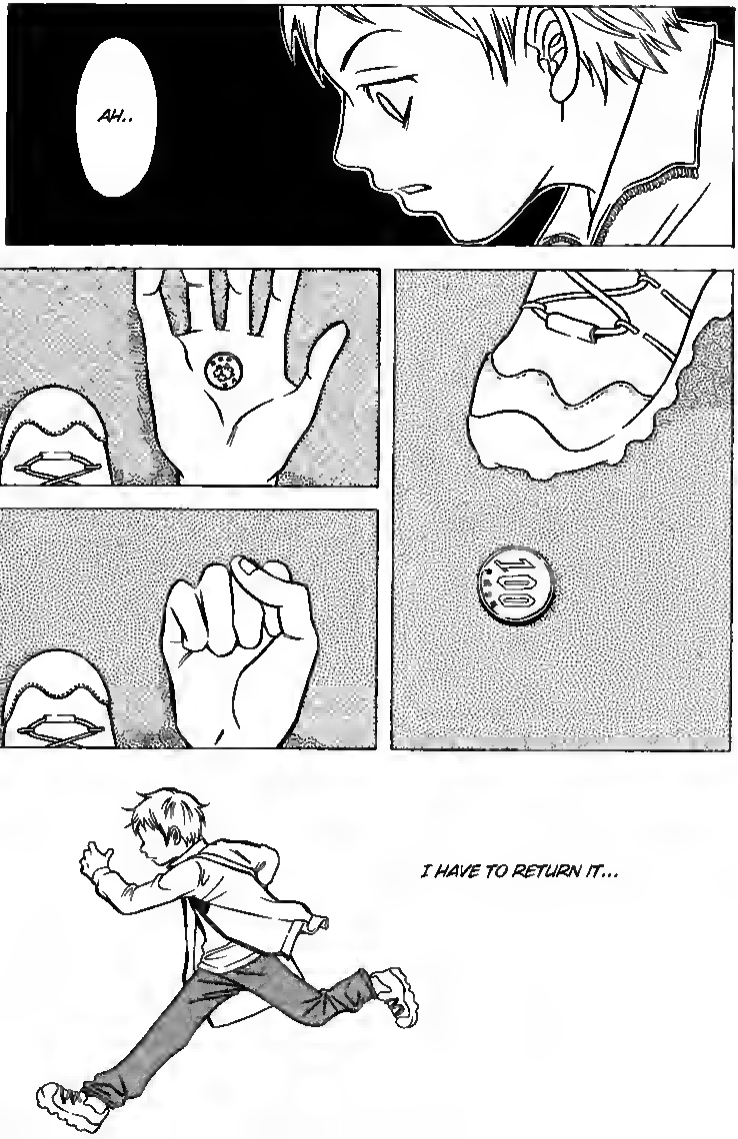

CRYING AFTER A PERSON ISN'T A THING TO BE ASHAMED OF.
WHAT'S REALLY IMPORTANT IS TO SURVIVE THE LOSS.
THAT'S WHAT MAKES US,HUMANS, DIFFERENT.

MEOW
MEOW
HELLO, KITTY
HAVE YOU FOUND A HOME FOR HIM?
I TRIED TO, BUT STILL HAVEN'T ...
HE HAS LOST HIS APPETITE OVER THE PAST 2 OR 3 DAYS
GOOD MORNING!
OH!

I'LL PATROL THE NEIGHBOURHOOD AND SEE IF ANYONE WANTS TO TAKE HIM
YEAH! THE FASTER, THE BETTER
IT WON'T MAKE any DIFFERENCE
KENJI!
IN THIS NEIGHBOURHOOD THERE ARE ONLY BLOCKS OF FLATS.
SWISH
FLY
AND IN OTHER PLACES THEY KEEP DOGS
WE'LL FIND HIM A HOME
SNIVEL SNIVEL
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT

HEY KENJI, YOU SHOULD LOOK AROUND BEFORE CROSSING THE STREET
WATCH OUT FOR THE CARS!
Hey, Kenji!
You geek!
WHAT A LAW-DEFENDER
THAT'S CALLED HYPOCRISY.

AH!
KENJIII! HIS OLDER BROTHER WANTS TO TRADE CARDS, YOU COMING?
I TOLD YOU TO LEAVE HIM BE.
HE PROBABLY HAS CRAM SCHOOL TODAY. LET'S GO.


AH..
100
I HAVE TO RETURN IT...

startle
!
KITTY
WAAAH
KITTY!
sniff
ARE WE GOING TO BURY HIM TOGETHER?
UHN

WHY...
ARE YOU CRYING SO DUMBLY OVER THERE? IT WON'T BRING HIM BACK.
YEAH,BUT...

CRYING AFTER A PERSON ISN'T A THING TO BE ASHAMED OF.
WHAT'S REALLY IMPORTANT IS TO SURVIVE THE LOSS.
THAT'S WHAT MAKES US, HUMANS, DIFFERENT

STOP CRYING
LET'S FAREWELL AND HONOUR HIS LIFE

OH!
KENJI, YOU'RE COMING BACK FROM CRAM SCHOOL?
Swish
TURN

IT'S ALSO HARD ON YOU EVERYDAY, TILL THIS LATE
DON'T TOUCH ME
IF I DON'T MAKE AN EFFORT NOW, I WON'T SUCCEED IN THIS SOCIETY
HA HA! WHAT AN ADULT WAY OF THINKING
WHEN YOU'RE A KID, IT'S BETTER TO THINK LIKE ONE
YOU HAVE TO HAVE FUN!
166
NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS
WHY DO YOU CARE?

YOU REMIND ME OF MYSELF WHEN I WAS YOUR AGE
HMM
WHY? I WANT YOU TO BREAK THE VICIOUS CIRCLE
ERK
Chicken Place
YAKITORI
EH, HEY!
BULLSHIT!

IT'S LATE, SO BE CAREFUL ON YOUR WAY HOME!
THOSE WERE HIS LAST WORDS.
BIG NEWS! BIG NEWS!

MR POLICEMAN DIED NEAR THE PARK!
YOU'RE LYING!
I'M NOT... MY GRANDMA SAW IT!
HE JUMPED IN FRONT OF A TRAIN AND HE'S IN PIECES, HIS HEAD AND EVERYTHING
SCATTERED
BAM

...JUST LIKE THE CAT THAT WAS FINE IN THE MORNING!..
...AND DEAD IN THE EVENING.
THE DEAD IS A POLICEMAN FROM LOCAL POLICE STATION. CAUSE OF DEATH- RAN OVER BY TRAIN.
RENJI...
HE SAVED A GRANDPA, WHO GOT STUCK ON THE RAILWAY TRACKS.

YOU HAVE TO REBUILD THE BODY AS MUCH AS IT'S POSSIBLE
RENJI ..
WHAT?
EEH
WHO'S THIS?
This red-head with hair the colour of Hasanuro
AH
YAMANE SAYA
SHE WAS INTRODUCED BY MR WAO.
THIS TIME IT'S A SPECIAL CASE, SO HELP WILL BE NECESSARY.
LAST YEAR I'VE GOT AN EMBALMER'S LICENCE IN HAWAII
NICE TO MEET YOU.
DUHH
AN UNEXPECTED COURSE OF EVENTS ..

I
IF RECONSTRUCTION ISN'T POSSIBLE DO SOMETHING THAT WILL PREVENT THE DECAY.
CREAK
THE FAMILY SAID THE BODY IN THIS STATE CAN BE CREMATED
THE HEAD AND BOTH HANDS ARE INTACT
AWFUL ...
IT'S PROBABLY TD-4*
NO..
RENJI, WILL YOU GIVE ME SOME TIME?

*TD-4 IS A TERM USED BY EMBALMERS. MEANS A CORPSE THAT CAN'T BE EMBALMED

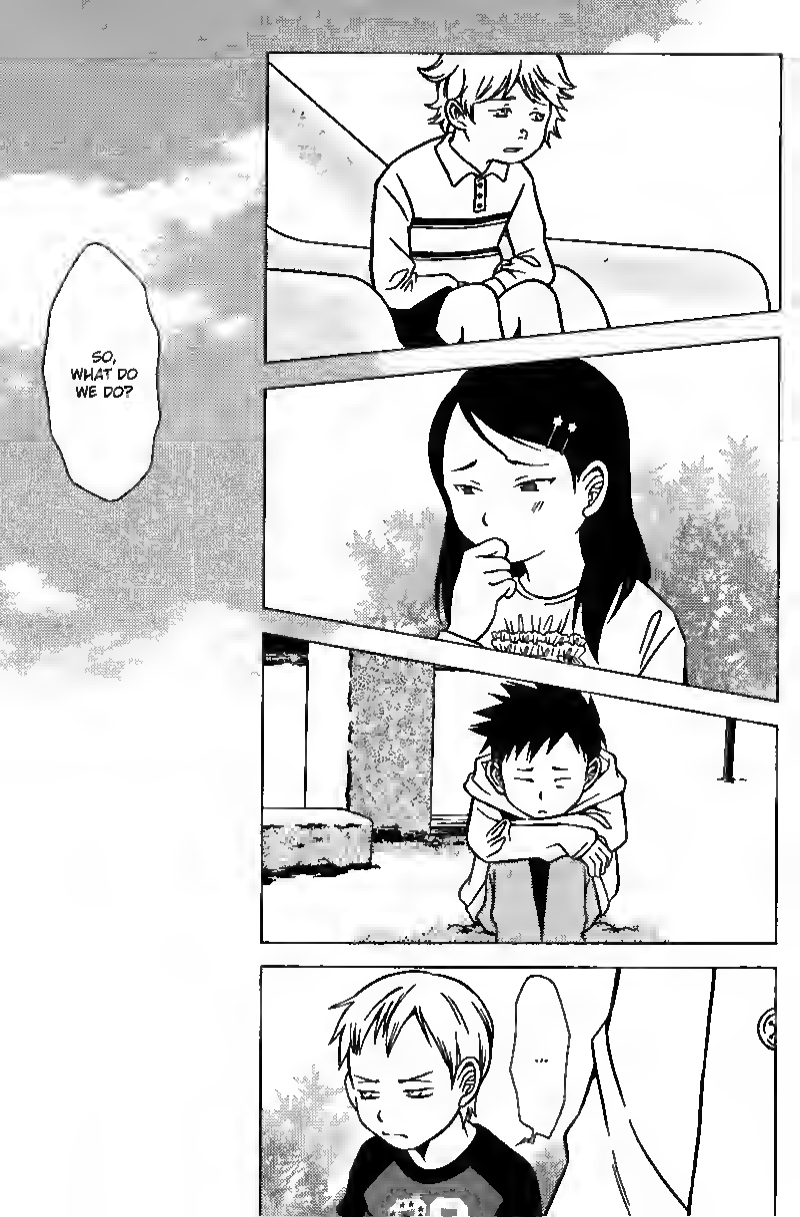
I'LL HELP.
LET'S GIVE IT A TRY.
DOES THAT MEAN HE INTENDS TO RECONSTRUCT A BODY IN THIS STATE?
WE'LL STERILIZE THE LIMBS SEPARATELY.
SECURE THE LARGEST ARTERY.
YES
WE WON'T BE ABLE TO USE THE SKULL FRAGMENTS.
WE'LL HAVE TO FILL IT WITH PLASTER AND COTTON.
THIS GUY...

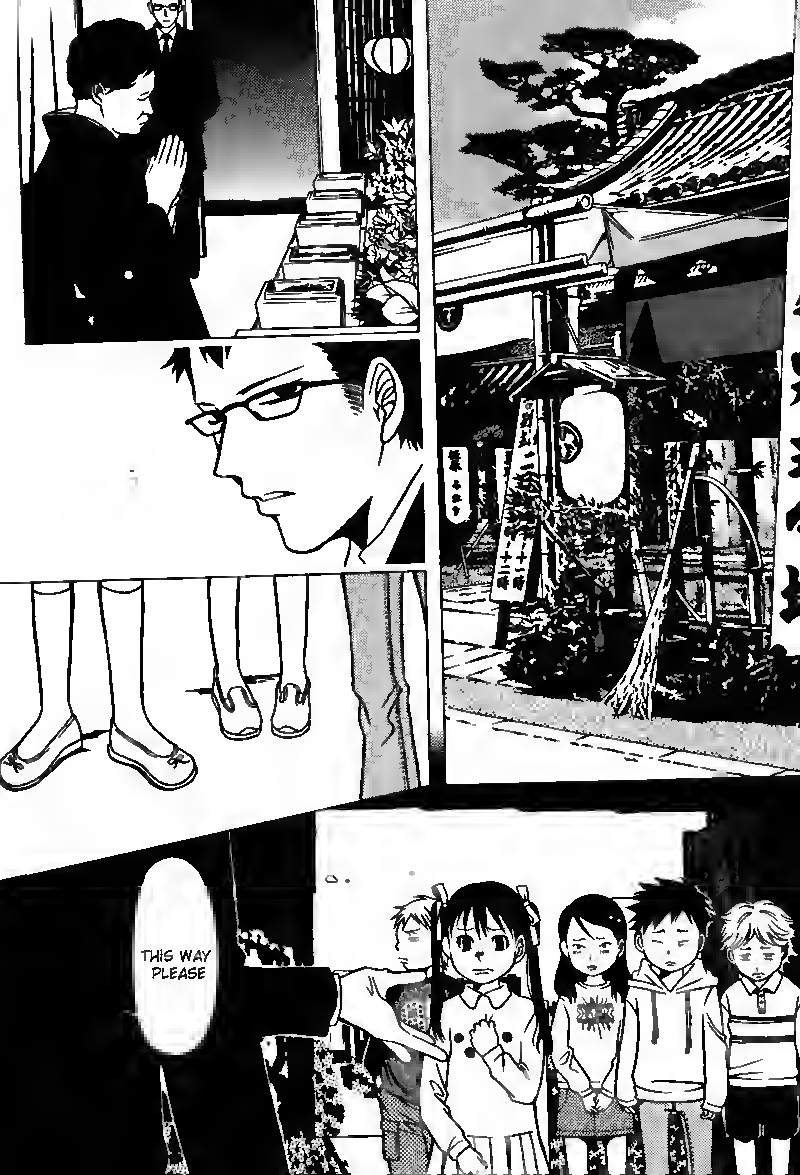
YOU TIRED? YOU CAN REST A BIT.
Here.
COMPOSITE CEMENT.

IT'S BEEN TEN HOURS I'VE ENTIRELY LOST THE ABILITY TO CONCENTRATE.
Sigh...

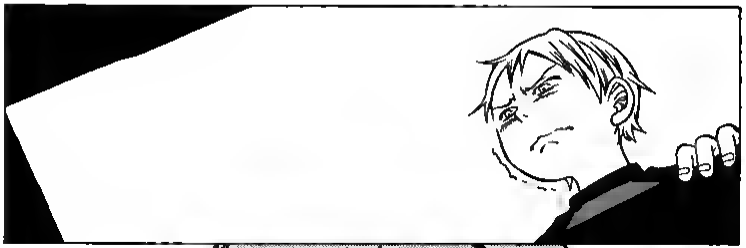
MR MAMIYA.
WE MADE IT.
MANY PEOPLE WILL WANT TO SAY FAREWELL AND SEE YOUR FACE.
COULD WE JOIN FORCES?

TODAY'S THE FUNERAL WHAT DO WE DO?
I DON'T
ME NEITHER . I'M SCARED
BECAUSE HE'S IN PIECES?
MR POLICEMAN ...
...TRIED REALLY HARD TO FIND A HOME FOR THE KITTY

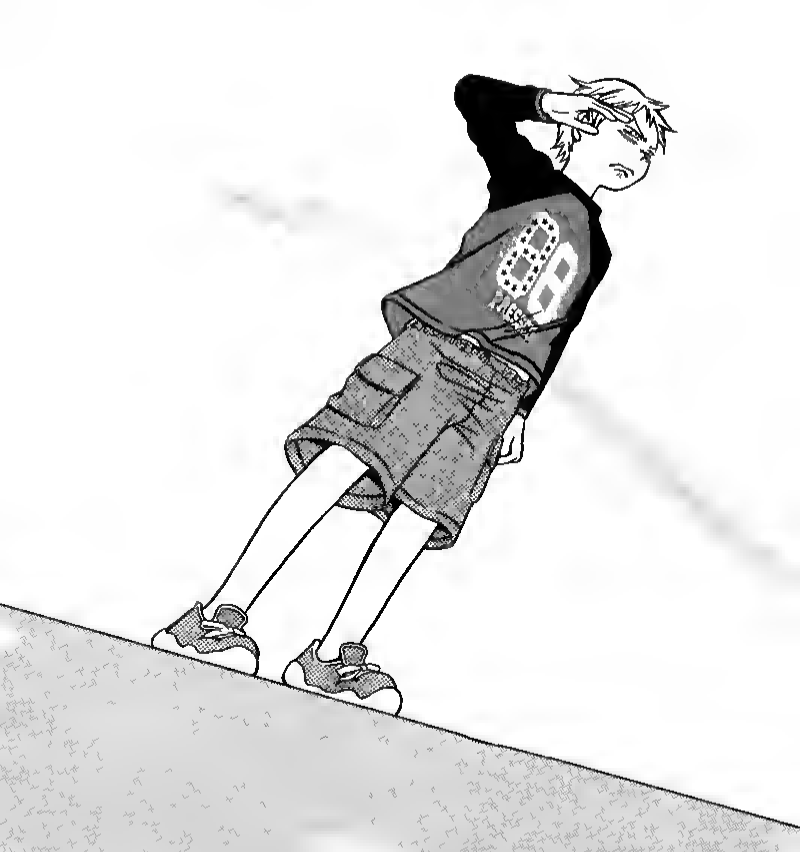

SO, WHAT DO WE DO?
...


THIS WAY PLEASE

"SEVERED, IN PIECES..."



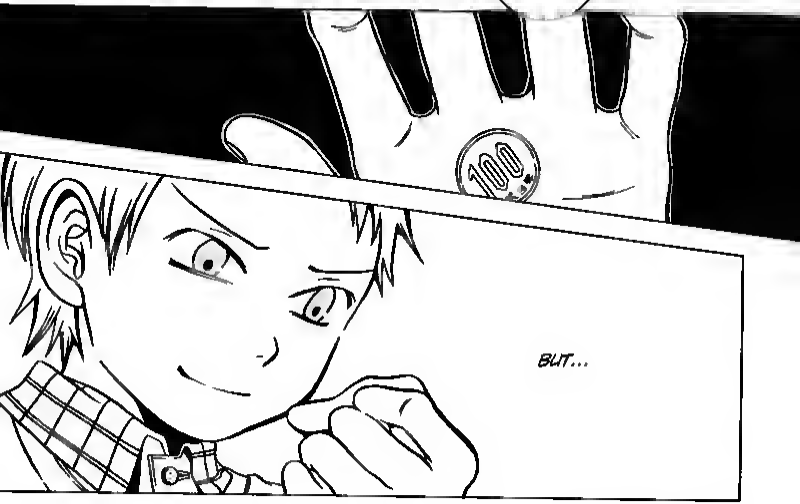
No... MR. POLICEMAN
NOW THE COFFIN WILL BE TAKEN OUT, WE HAVE TO SAY OUR GOODBYES
WAAAH!
親族一同

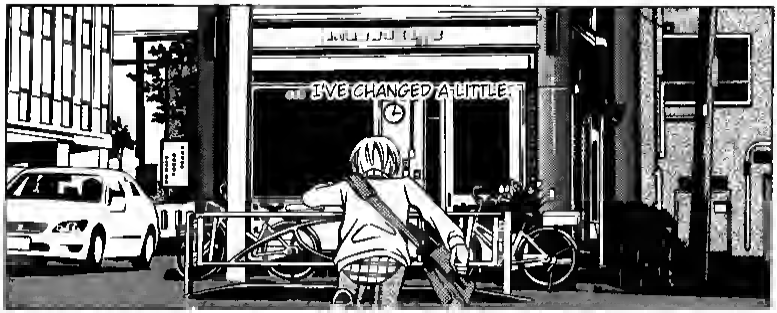

TO CRY AFTER SOMEBODY AND SURVIVE.

...
PRESSCO

THAT'S WHAT MAKES US, HUMANS, DIFFERENT.

EVEN IF SOMEBODY DIES, NOTHING AROUND ME CHANGES.





embalming 35
Surviving the loss.
the end.

EMBALMING 36

WHEN ONE'S CHILD DIES, ONE LOSES THE FUTURE.

WHEN ONE'S FRIEND DIES, ONE LOSES THE PAST.

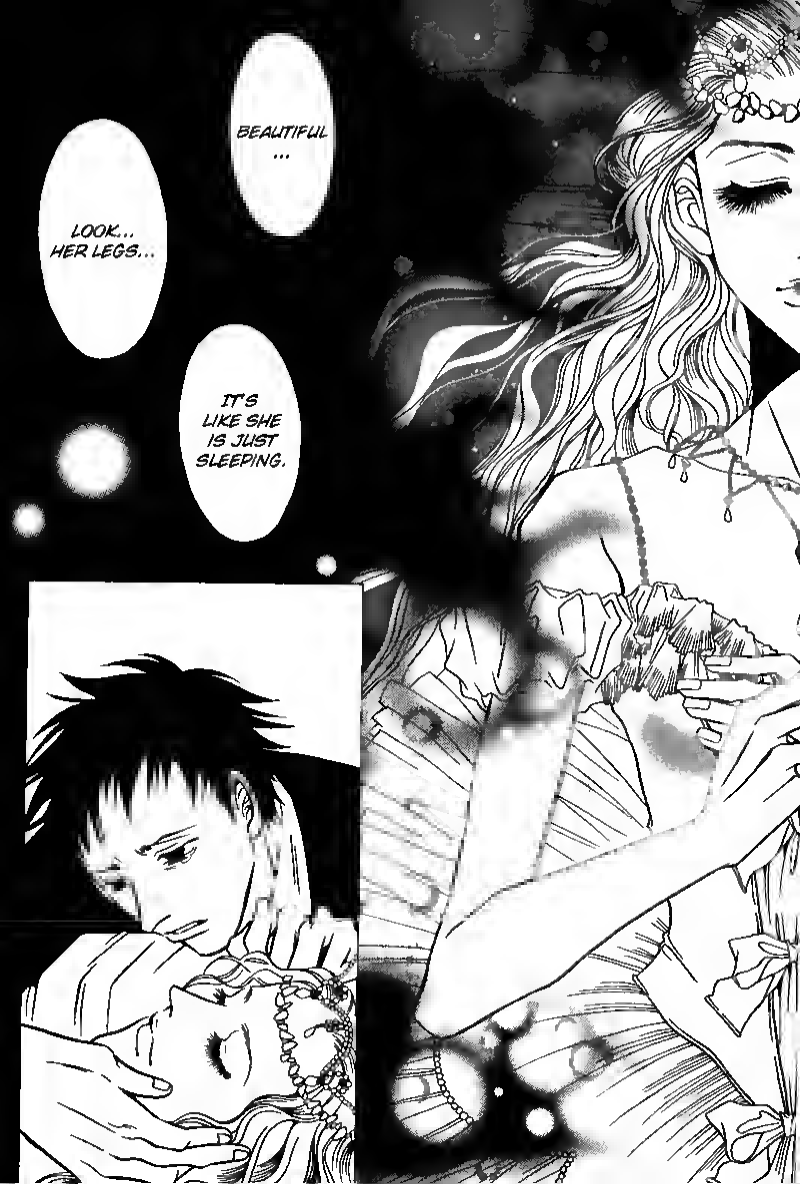
WHEN A LOVED ONE DIES, ONE LOSES THE PRESENT.

I'M NO GOOD WITH VISITING CEMETERIES.
BUT THIS GRAVE IS PARTICULARLY MEANINGFUL FOR ME.
A COUPLE OF YEARS AGO MR. SHINJURO EMBALMED MY FRIEND.

SHIORI... I'M GOING TO BE IN A BALLET PERFORMANCE, JUST LIKE YOU.
Although it's just going to be the role of a swan standing behind Odette.
AZUKI?

MR TOMIYUKI ...
LONG TIME NO SEE.
HOW HAVE YOU BEEN?
AH... I'M SORRY ...
HA HA
I'M FINE DON'T WORRY.
A LOT HAS HAPPENED EVER SINCE THAT TIME.

WE WERE TO GET MARRIED IN JUNE.
SHE WAS A BALLERINA... POOR THING.
HER LEG WAS SEVERED.
SHE HAD ALREADY BEEN DEAD WHEN SHE WAS RESCUED FROM THE CAR
SHIORI...
EMBALMING WILL MAKE MISS SHIORI LOOK JUST LIKE SHE USED TO.
IT WILL BE ALRIGHT. MISS SHIORI'S BODY IS NOT DAMAGED TO SUCH EXTENT THAT IT WOULDN'T BE POSSIBLE TO RECONSTRUCT EVERYTHING
YOU LOOKED FINE.


BEAUTIFUL ...
LOOK... HER LEGS...
IT'S LIKE SHE IS JUST SLEEPING.

WHEN I KISSED HER LIPS FOR THE LAST TIME, THEY WERE AS COLD AS ICE, CONTRARY TO WHAT THEY LOOKED LIKE.

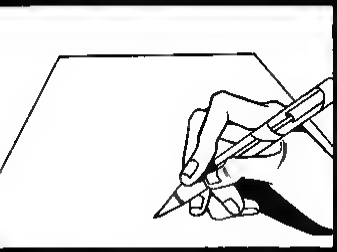
HER APPEARANCE SURVIVED IN PICTURES.

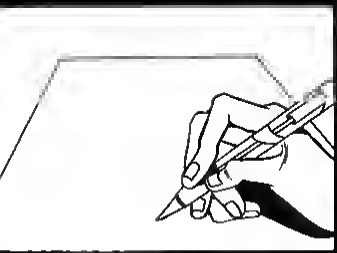
I WANTED TO...

... GET RID OF MY SADNESS.

YES I'M SORRY FOR THE INCONVENIENCE.
INAMURA ARE YOU OKAY NOW?
HE CAN'T SLEEP PEACEFULLY.
KEEP ON LIVING!
I GO BACK AND CRY.
GET A HOLD OF YOURSELF!
I WILL TRY AND LIVE FOR HER!
GUYS DON'T ACT LIKE THAT.
I'LL DO IT!
HEY, THIS IS THE EVALUATION FOR ITTSU COMPANY. COULD SOMEBODY...

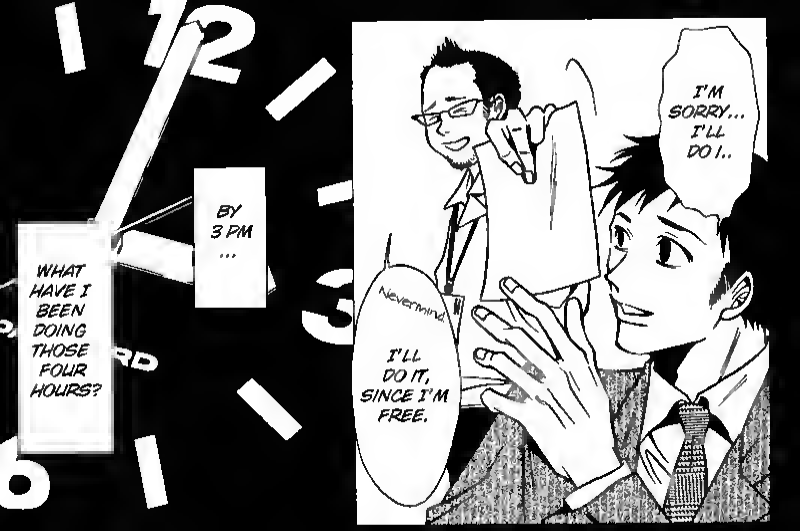
GO TO LIVE AND SEIKODO, THEN HEAD STRAIGHT HOME.
IT LOOKS LIKE MANAGER INAMURA OVERWORKS HIMSELF THESE DAYS, DOESN'T IT?
yeah.
IS HE ALL RIGHT? IT'S DANGEROUS TO BE THIS WAY.
WHEN I'M SAD, SHIORI IS SAD TOO.
...





ROGER.
COMPLETE IT BY 3PM.

INAMURA!
Tap
What?
WHY IS IT BLANK? I ASKED YOU TO FINISH IT BY 3PM.
EH... WHAT?
HAVE YOU FINISHED?


I'M SORRY... I'LL DO I..
Nevermind.
I'LL DO IT, SINCE I'M FREE.
BY 3 PM ...
WHAT HAVE I BEEN DOING THOSE FOUR HOURS?

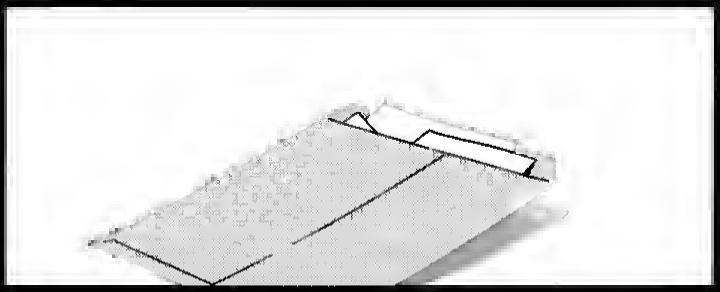
DOCUMENTS ... WRITING ...
DID I WRITE LEFT TO RIGHT? RIGHT TO LEFT?
WHAT...?
WHAT DID I DO BEFORE TURNING THE COMPUTER ON?
WHEN DID I TURN ON THE COMPUTER?
WHAT DID I HAVE FOR LUNCH?

CLINIC
MENTAL HEALTH
CLINIC
Mental Health
YOU'RE SUFFERING FROM DEPRESSION.
IT'D BE BETTER IF YOU TOOK SOME TIME OFF WORK.
WHEN A PERSON IMPORTANT TO US DIES, WE TEND TO DELVE INTO THE PAST.
I'LL PRESCRIBE YOU SOME MEDICAMENTS AND WE'LL SEE HOW IT WORKS OUT.
DID I BREATHE IN THROUGH THE NOSE OR THE MOUTH?
THE VOICE OF THE DOCTOR ...
If you feel anxious, please take Depas. For insomnia, Rohypnol and Halcion.
I'll prescribe you Milnacipran and Imaxepine. You might feel nauseous at first, so I advise you to take those meds along with gastroprotective drugs.

I HEARD IT UP CLOSE, THEN FROM FAR AWAY.

I DON'T REMEMBER COMING BACK HOME.

shivers
fluff
I DON'T HAVE THE STRENGTH TO DO ANYTHING.
AS IF I
LIVED IN A
COLOURLESS, ODOURLESS AND SOUNDLESS
WORLD.
SHIORI...



WHY AM I AFRAID OF LOOKING AT YOU?

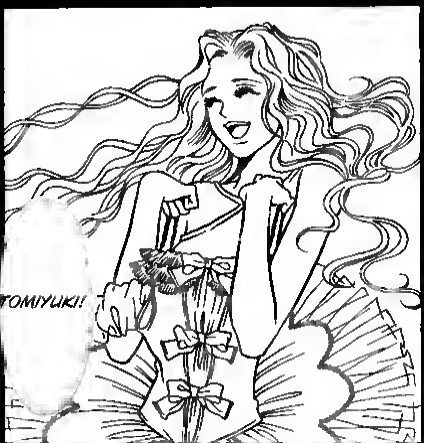
DID THE EMBALMING MATTER FOR HER?

SHE'S PROBABLY DANCING IN HEAVEN.

REALLY? THERE'S NOTHING MORE WE COULD DO.

SHE LOOKED AS IF SHE WAS ALIVE,SO BEAUTIFUL.

SHIORI, CAN YOU FORGIVE ME?



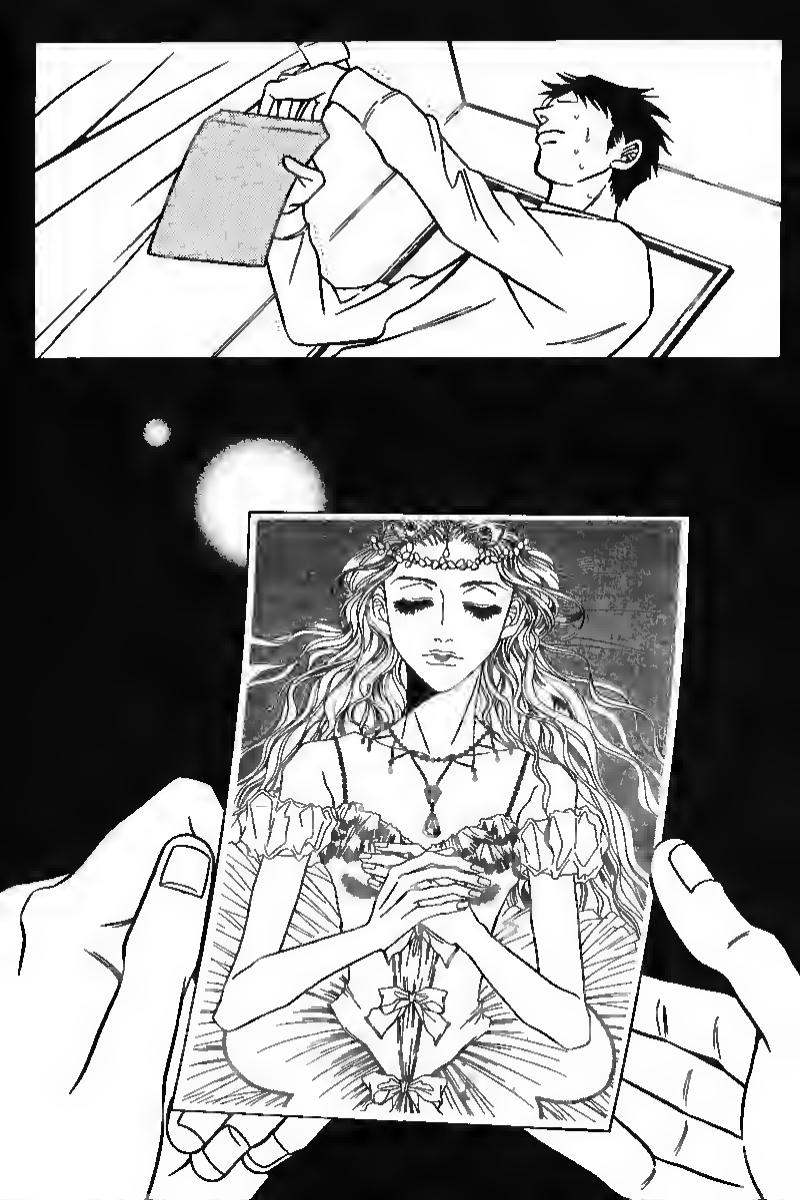
WHY DIDN'T YOU SAVE ME?

SHIORI...
DING
DONG
creak

ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT SOMETHING? I JUST CAME TO CHECK IF EVERYTHING WAS ALRIGHT.
MANAGER INAMURA ..
MANAGER, YOU LOST A LOT OF WEIGHT.

ALTHOUGH I LOVED HER SO MUCH
I'M SCARED, SO SCARED
I CAN'T LOOK AT PICTURES OF SHIORI ...
EH?
THE PICTURES ...
THE EMBALMING WAS NOT DONE ONLY FOR MY SATISFACTION
I DON'T KNOW IF MY JUDGEMENT'S RIGHT. BUT...

YOU DID ALL THAT YOU COULD BACK THEN.
SHE PROBABLY FELT THAT WAY TOO.



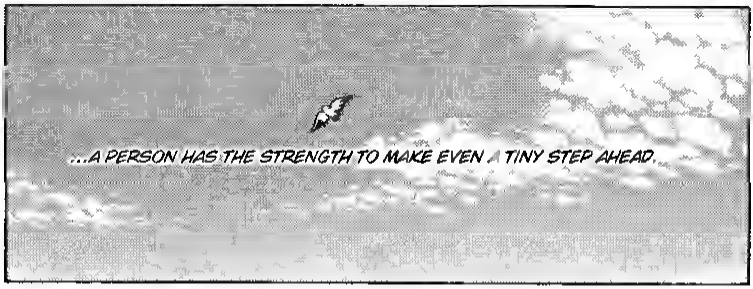
SHIORI..

I REALISED IT FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE HER DEATH.
DANCING WAS HER DREAM.

AND ... THERE'S THIS ONE PERSON THAT I CARE ABOUT.
MANAGER IWAMURA!
COMING.
THANK YOU FOR TODAY.
YOU'RE WELCOME... MR TOMIYUKI, TAKE CARE.

IF YOU SEE MR MAMIYA, PLEASE GIVE HIM MY GREETINGS.
OKAY...
BE HAPPY

WILL I EVER BE IN A RELATIONSHIP? WILL SUCH A DAY COME FOR ME TO CHOOSE ONE PERSON?
WHEN ONE'S CHILD DIES, ONE LOSES THE FUTURE.
WHEN ONE'S FRIEND DIES, ONE LOSES THE PAST.
WHEN A LOVED ONE DIES, ONE LOSES THE PRESENT.
HOWEVER, EVEN IF ONE LOSES EVERYTHING...



EMBALMING 36
TO SAVE THE LOST TIME.
THE END.